



# AILDI *News & Updates*

FALL 2020 ISSUE

News, events, updates, opportunities:  
Everything and anything related to AILDI and Indigenous languages!

[Our Website](#)

## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE PROGRAM DIRECTORY *Highlight*

### Coeur D'Alene Language Program — *hnqwa'qwe'eln*

Revitalizing language among the  
Schitsu'umsh

The Coeur d'Alene Language program (Plummer, ID) was founded in 1995. Currently with a staff of three members, the program offers language classes for the community as well as in the area schools working to create new adult speakers to pass on the language. As a smaller program, its reach can be a challenge, however adult classes are taught daily along with beginner classes taught four evenings a week.



Using legacy materials, the program is working to stabilize, preserve, and make accessible documentation from speakers, archives, museums, and libraries. Efforts towards digitizing the audio of fluent speakers to use for curriculum, teaching, and to share with the community are underway. Additionally, several collaborative projects in concert with multiple universities are undertaken to develop curricula and archiving of Coeur d'Alene materials.

Short-term goals of the program are to maximize learning opportunities for the current cohort of students as well as spreading awareness to involve more learners and future speakers. In the long term, they hope to foster fluent adult speakers working towards the

eventual rekindling of intergenerational transmission through teaching. They call for more help and language activity from tribal members to meet their goals.

[For links to the Coeur d'Alene Language Program site and Facebook page, visit the AILDI Directory \[here\]\(#\).](#)

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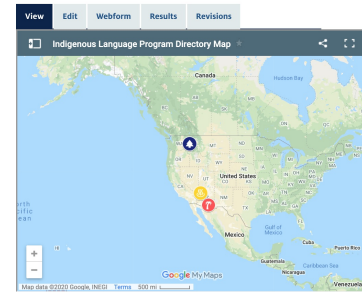
## SUBMIT to AILDI's Indigenous Language Program Directory

*Showcase and share the work you do for your language!*

Our intention is to compile a directory map of Indigenous language programs across the continent increasing support and awareness. Each submission will contain program information to serve as a resource for those interested in learning about language work and further collaboration.

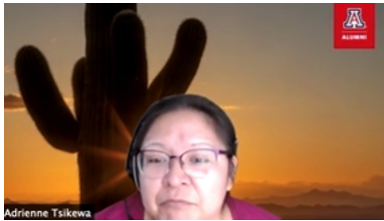
To submit to our directory, please click [here](#).

### Indigenous Language Program Directory Map



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## AILDI Summer SUCCESS!



Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the University of Arizona required all summer courses to be held on-line. As a result, AILDI had the opportunity and challenge to launch its first on-line classes. Ensuring the health and safety of our students and instructors was our priority, but with wonderful serendipity, this year's theme, *'Telling Our Language Journey Stories: Documenting the Language Work We Do'*, presented another facet by which participants and instructors with the opportunity to share their experiences dealing with language work including navigating the current COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine.

UA Regents' Professor and AILDI Director Dr. Ofelia Zepeda made an appearance this Summer Session with the unique course offering *'Writing About Our Language Work'*, centering Indigenous voices within different modes and genres. This and other courses, as well as the many guest lectures given, offered valuable experiences and training. Honoring our work in language documentation can also affirm the life-giving qualities of our Native languages.

With tuition remaining the same for online classes, we are happy to report good turn-out and an overall great success with many students electing to enroll in two courses. Many reported they would not have been able to participate any other year because of geographical distance, cost, or other factors. With AILDI's on-line modality debut a success, we look forward to offering both on-line (both synchronous and asynchronous) and off-line / in-person / face-to-face modalities from here onwards. Thank you to everyone for supporting us, including our students, instructors, and AILDI staff, without which this would not have been possible.




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## *AILDI Summer Online 2020 Instructor* **Stanley Rodriguez, Ed.D. (Kumeyaay)**



### **Sharing My Experience:**

My name is Stan Rodriguez. I'm from the San Ysabel Reservation. I'm an Iipay Kumeyaay. The Kumeyaay Nation has members from San Diego, California to Baja California, Mexico.

I have my Doctorate in Education Leadership. I serve on Tribal Council for the San Ysabel Band of the Iipay Nation. At this time, I am also President of Kumeyaay Community College (KCC); we are currently the only operational tribal college in California offering an accredited Associate's degree program.

I have previously taught face-to-face courses and workshops in Language Immersion Methods at AILDI and have worked with some incredible people. This Summer Session I taught 'Master Apprentice Immersion Methods' (LING 421/521).



I have to say this, the [AILDI Summer Session on-line] was a success. A big part of the success were the students. They came in with a passion for their language, they were active in the process and hungry to learn. AILDI was created in order to assist people in making Native languages strong, in revitalizing, and teaching teachers how to teach language: meaning different techniques than traditionally used.

Many pedagogies are focused on traditional Secondary Language Acquisition method: so identifying items, being able to recall them, but they don't focus on immersion and being able to communicate. Instead of literacy, developing oral fluency and quick recall are very important; using the language in order to stay present. That's where Master-Apprentice approaches and Accelerated Second Language Acquisition (ASLA) where learners are developing proficiency in language use in context.

Two techniques that proved especially successful at AILDI's on-line Summer Session this year were group roleplays and topic-focused language immersion pods. But one challenge of being on-line is to have many as many people speaking as we can. The Breakout sessions on Zoom let us split students into groups for group work but while learners are developing roleplays. We lack the ability to be present in all these places at once so it's more difficult to monitor effectively. More than ever the onus is on the learner and on the groups.

One big benefit to online is reach. There's a big potential to helping our students to reach people we haven't reached before—not just on this side of the border. Here at KCC we are doing transmission to all the twelve reservations here in San Diego. From the main campus here on the Sycuan Reservation to get to the other sites, if they were to drive in it would take an hour to an hour and 30 minutes for some. There are Kumeyaay in Baja [California] too. So that had discouraged many of the potential students from enrolling in classes because it would be three hours of driving. Many of them are gainfully employed, so it would have previously been difficult. With online, we have the capability and the potential of reaching out. It's an exciting time.



Language use shift in Native communities means you can have all the adults speaking the language, but the contexts for use can decrease. If children are not speaking, that is already a restriction in circumstances, topics, contexts of use. Speakers and the community become fragmented where speakers don't have opportunities to use language together, but also fewer and fewer opportunities to hear the language, learn by immersion, and develop language use.

Another benefit is recorded materials as a resource for on-line. During classes, students would ask me "Stan, are you recording this?". They're able to go back and review the lesson and it gives them a much better grounding.

I look forward to continue working with AILDI in the future. I really enjoy working with community members. I have so much respect for them and for this organization and the passion that people bring: faculty, staff, students, alumni taking these things back to the communities. I learned from each student. I'm a teacher, but I'm also a student. So we all learn from each other. I was impressed at what I'm going to take back to my own home.

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### *AILDI Summer Online 2020 Student*

## **Rebecca Whitney (Quapaw, Kiowa, & Otoe)**

### **Sharing My Experience:**



My name is Rebecca Whitney. I'm Quapaw; today my nation is located in the northeastern corner of Oklahoma. I grew up in Idaho partly raised by my grandpa Sidney Griffin, grandson of the last chief of the tribe, who raised my sister and me to honor our heritage and would teach us words in the language.

I'm a Master's student in Native American Languages and Linguistics here at the University of Arizona. I have a Bachelor of Science in Linguistics from Tulane University.



I'm really really glad I was able to attend AILDI. You're able to take classes and meet people that you wouldn't otherwise be able to. I was doing what I love with other tribal community members who are doing exactly the same thing.

I was really excited about all of the class offerings so it was difficult to choose just one. I ended up taking two courses because I wanted to get as much as I could out of the Summer Institute: 'Writing About Our Language Work' with Dr. Zepeda (Tohono O'odham) and 'Demystifying Documentation' with Adrienne Tsikewa (Zuni).

Both classes were excellent. It was really valuable, the breadth and diversity of material made available and that we were exposed to. I'll be using it for long time, I think. My professors were just super, super accommodating in me working asynchronously since I would have to go to work or need to leave class early. The online format allowed me to watch the classes recordings later. The classes were small, so it was just a lot more of a personal relationship with my classmates and instructor than I've otherwise had. That's the feeling of AILDI in general. It's a comfortable space to be in.

It would have been very different in-person. It may have been necessary [to go on-line] because of COVID, but the benefits of having it online is you are able to bring many people from different places who often have all these other obligations. So I think it provides the freedom to join from wherever you're at. That was really useful, especially in my case. I wouldn't have been able to take off work for, you know, a month.

I am also a creative writer, which is not something I get to do a whole lot of in language work. It was a unique opportunity to see a poet and scholar like Dr. Zepeda and learn how to integrate that side of it with the creative aspect in writing about our work.

It was an amazing experience and really changed my perspective. AILDI has this kind of beautiful feeling of inspiration. Sometimes my language work can feel isolating especially now with quarantine. The things that we're trying to do can feel insurmountable. But being able to attend this institute online gave me a connection with people I wouldn't otherwise have had. I came out of it kind of with this renewed energy for what I'm doing.

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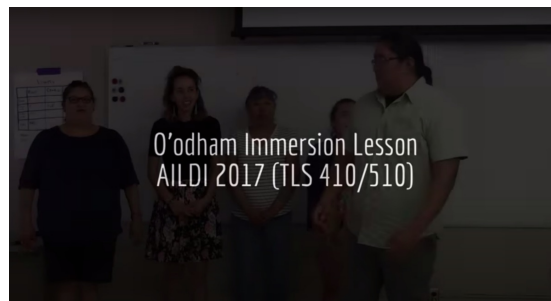
## LANGUAGE MEDIA *Highlight*

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### O'odham Immersion Online Language Lesson

This month we would like to revisit a fantastic immersion lesson given by A. Joyce Hughes (Akimel O'otham, Gila River), O'odham Language Educator and Instructor at AILDI Summer Session 2017.

We hope that this will serve as a resource to reference and a source of inspiration for mentors and teachers looking to adapt lessons, and especially immersion methods, to digital and on-line contexts. *Click the photo to watch!*



For more AILDI videos like this, visit  
the [AILDI YouTube channel here!](#)

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## UPCOMING *Workshops, Events, & Institutes*

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### AILDI SUMMER ONLINE 2021

June 7th - 30th, 2021

*Save the date!*

AILDI is committed to continuing to safeguard individual and community health. The session for Summer Institute will be held via on-line synchronous and asynchronous flex-modalities for Summer 2021.

*Look out for a link in our upcoming newsletter for details on more info on the theme, instructor, and course descriptions!*



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## ONGOING *Projects*

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### Support Indigenous Language Stewards at AILDI *with a donation towards student scholarships*

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Support from our friends makes AILDI



possible for future generations of students, teachers, community members, and activists.

All donations go towards AILDI scholarships and any amount—however big or small—is welcome.

If you have ever attended AILDI, you know its value. Honor your experience by giving back today!

[Click here to donate](#)

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## RESOURCES *for Teaching Online*

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Here are a few resources you may not know about to help you, your loved ones, and your community continue to use, learn, teach and grow language!



**Google Jamboard**– Draw and sketch together like on a traditional whiteboard and insert images from the web or work from Google Docs, Sheets, Slides.

**Skooler** – Tools to turn Microsoft Office software into an education platform.

**FirstVoices Keyboard App** -

Allows you to any of activate 100+ custom keyboards for Native languages in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and many languages spoken in the US (available for both Android and iOS / iPhone).

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[Sign up for our newsletter!](#)



*The American Indian Language Development Institute's (AILDI) mission is to provide critical training to strengthen efforts to revitalize and promote the use of Indigenous languages across generations. This is accomplished by engaging educators, schools, Indigenous communities and policy makers nationally and internationally through outreach, transformative teaching, purposeful research and collaborative partnerships. As a result of our work, we envision that the larger society will know that language revitalization is critical to sustain and reinforce Indigenous linguistic, cultural, and spiritual health and identity.*